DATE DISTR. 29 November 1948

Approved For Releaser 1299/199/19 <u>LENGHA-ROM82-00457R00210024</u>

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Poland/USSR COUNTRY

SUBJECT Frontier Barriers

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25X1A6a

25X1X6 DATE OF INFO As indicated in text

NO. OF PAGES1

NO. OF ENCLS.

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March-June 1948

1. Fortifications on the Hel Peninsula

In March 1948 the whole tip of the Hel Peninsula with the exception of the town of Hela was proclaimed a military area. Entry is prohibited to all except those on duty or at work there and offenders are liable to sentences of up to fifteen years. A radar station is being erected in a lightly wooded area on the northeast extremity of the peninsula. The building is very well carouflaged and is difficult to spot from the sea.

June 1948

Erection of Barrier on the German-Polish Frontier 2.

It is reported that barbed wire barriers 60 to 70 cm. high (sic) and spaced over an area 10 to 12 meters wide are being built from Nowy Jarpho (Neuwarr, 35 km. NNW of Szczecin) southwards along the Polish-German frontier to the Oder south of zczecin. At the beginning of June 1948 this barrier had been completed as far as the Szczecin-Pasewalk railroad line. The barrier is being erected by soldiers of the MOP (Frontier Protection Force), with whom source talked on the spot. He is of the opinion that it would be almost impossible to get through this barrier.

September 1948

3. Obstacles on the Polish-Soviet Frontier

All inhabitants have been removed from a belt 400 meters wide along the Polish Soviet frontier. A belt 12 meters wide at a distance of 59 meters from the frontier is plowed and harrowed, and along it, very close to the ground, runs a signal wire, which if touched fires a rocket to alarm the frontier guard. At a distance of a few hundred meters from the frontier there are two lines of barbed wire entanglements of wartime width. Every 250 meters there are observation towers, and at unstated intervals there are bunkers with all-round fire. The frontier guards employ dogs in great nurbers and let them run at large during the night.

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